(a) whether there is any proposal for revamping the Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Government have announced a package for 100% Export Oriented Units and units in the Export Processing Zones at part of the new Trade Policy. These include a revised procedure of application and processing of proposals under the two Schemes, delegation of some specific powers of Board of Approvals/Administrative Ministries to Development Commissionere of Export processing Zones for 100% EOUs and EPZ Units and certain procedural simplifications.

A.D.B. Loan for Indian Refineries

2697. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are in negotiations with Asian Development Bank for loan assistance for development of refineries;

(b) if so, the amount of loan for which negotiations are going on; and

(c) the items involved under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) A.D.B. is considering a programme loan for assisting and rationalising energy conservation measures in Indian Refineries.

(b) and (c). The details of the proposed loan have not yet been finalised.

Export of Exotic Foods

2698. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to export exotic foods;

(b) if so, the steps taken to explore the export potential of such foods; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):(a) to (c). To promote exports of exotic foods, for which there is vast scope, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) undertakes various developmental programmes through market development, product promotion, quality upgradation, improvement and packaging etc. Some financial assistance schemes are also offered by APEDA to exporters, manufactures and research institutions for upgradation and improvements in these fields. According to APEDA as a result of various steps taken by it, the export of exotic foods has increased from Rs. 32.3 crores in 1981 to Rs.88 crores in 1989-90 registering an increase of 173%.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Marine Products

2699. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether marine products constitute a significant source of foreign exchange earnings;

(b) if so, the foreign exchange earnings during the last two years in the public and private sectors;